

## Hugh Lawson White to Andrew Jackson, October 4, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### HUGH L. WHITE TO JACKSON.

“ At Home ”, October 4, 1828.

*My Dear Sir*, On monday last I reached home, after a four weeks absence to the Harrodsburg Springs, in company with my son, who I thought too weak to be alone. He, it is feared, has but a slender chance to reestablish his health.

I have abstained writing you often since my return from Washington<sup>1</sup> for many reasons, but chiefly, because I confidently expected until lately to see, and spend some time with, you during the summer or fall. That expectation is now abandoned. The approaching Courts in Knoxville

<sup>1</sup> White was senator, until 1833.

will occupy the interval between this and setting out for the City. My news from all quarters teaches me to look with much confidence to a successful result in the pending election. Yet the enemy are so untiring in their efforts, so full of invention and so destitute of every thing like moral restraint that if your friends relax there is no telling what changes may take place.

In Kentucky I saw many friends, they say they fought the battle of the *23rd Dec.* in August, and will do their duty on the *8th of January*, which is to be in Nov. They count with much certainty on a decided Victory. 'Tis said Judge McNairy has taken the water and passed off in the Gulph Stream. I hope it is not so: but if it should be we must do without him. 'Tis a pity he had not taken his appropriate place at first. His importance has been increased by

## Library of Congress

putting him on Our Committee. Every thing is kept pretty snug here. In this county we have at least *five to one* and in the District I think *ten to one* at least.

Pardon the suggestions which follow, they are intended as mere hints for your own mind to operate upon. Ought you not at your leisure moments to be reducing to writing your thoughts upon the Cardinal points of your Administration supposing you elected? Fix in your mind those who would form your Cabinet. If elected immediately make known to them what would be your policy and know whether they could give it their cordial support. I am of opinion you could expect no benefit from any man whose judgt. would not approve your policy. Some plan of this sort digested in due time, *by yourself, and kept to yourself*, would enable you to select a suitable cabinet of proper materials, and would put it in your power in due season to spread your political views before the nation, in such manner as to have the best effect, and without having put you in haste on any subject.

Should you be elected I feel deep solicitude that the government should in all respects be administered upon principles which the present and future ages will approve, and upon such principles as will secure the blessings of Civil liberty to the Sovereign people themselves. This solicitude is felt on account of the public, and on account of *you individually*. As to myself, individually it is of but little importance to me what is to happen. Out of twelve children I have now but Six left, and the eldest of them, at this time, seriously threatened. I can therefore say safely "all is vanity and vexation of spirit". Still I am not soured with the world nor am I disposed to play the part of a monk, we were put here for activity and usefulness and while here I am not disposed to avoid the discharge of duty in any respect.

In the Senate, if I approve your policy I would give it my humble support. If otherwise I would yield the berth to some other. To be your political opponent, in a public station, I would not, and to support that which I did not approve, you know, I could not. If elected when will you be in Washington? Ought you not to be there pretty early?

## Library of Congress

Present me in such terms as will be most acceptable to Mrs. Jackson, and believe that I am with great sincerity Your friend